

FAST FACTS

Title I Buildings Must Provide Services

Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act provides financial assistance to state and local educational agencies to meet the needs of at-risk children. The goal of Title I is to provide instructional services and activities that support students in meeting the state's challenging performance standards.

Districts with populations over 1,000 and having multiple attendance areas utilize the targeting process to determine which buildings are eligible to be Title I. In all other districts, it is a local decision to determine which buildings and grade levels benefit from Title I services.

When a district determines that a particular building or grade level is going to be Title I and receive Title I services, it is at this point the district commits Title I funding will be utilized to provide Title I services. Guidance on allowable expenditures can be found online at www.nd.gov/dpi. Bulleted below are examples of Title I services:

- Hiring a Title I teacher to provide instructional services to at-risk students.
- Hiring a Title I aide/paraprofessional to assist Title I staff and work under the direct supervision of a teacher in providing additional instructional services to at-risk students.
- Providing high-quality, professional development opportunities relating to serving at-risk students.
- Hiring highly qualified staff to provide additional Title I services such as before/after school programs, summer school, and Title I preschool.

Title I schools must recognize that once a school is identified as Title I, high quality Title I services **MUST** be provided. Below are examples of services or Title I scenarios that are **not allowed**:

- Hiring a Title I aide/paraprofessional to provide instructional services to at-risk students when Title I services are NOT being provided by a Title I teacher to those same students.
- Identifying a building as Title I, but not providing services (i.e., a K-12 schoolwide program with instructional services only focusing on grades K-6).
- In a Title I schoolwide building, implementing services, programs, technology, and professional development that is not supported by the comprehensive needs assessment and embedded in the schoolwide plan.

The designation of a building as Title I can have implications beyond Title I, Part A funding and services. When a district identifies a building as Title I, that particular building becomes eligible for identification for Title I program improvement. Along with this comes the responsibility for meeting the intent of the federal Title I law and its requirements, and potential eligibility for supplemental funds and competitive grants (i.e., reallocated Title I funds, School Improvement Grants, etc.). In order for Title I buildings to be eligible for additional funding that supplements the building's regular Title I, Part A allocation, the district must first determine the level of Title I services being provided. If no services are being provided, then there is not a Title I program to supplement. In these cases, districts and Title I buildings may be determined ineligible for supplemental funds and grants.

In summary, if a district identifies a building as Title I or if the building is determined eligible through the targeting process, then it is the district's responsibility to ensure that adequate Title I services are being provided and the appropriate amount of funds have been designated to carry out these services.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact the Division of Student Support & Innovation at (888) 605-1951.